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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/12/07

SPONSOR Cervantes LAST UPDATED _____ HB HM 78

SHORT TITLE Joseph M. Stell Water Ombudsman Program SB _____

ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriations for the Utton Transboundary Resources Center

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 78 discusses the many accomplishments of State Representative Joe M. Stell. The memorial notes “with Representative Stell’s support, and under his leadership, the university of New Mexico created the Utton Transboundary Resources Center Ombudsman Program on water to foster dialogue and creative approaches to difficult problems such as water conflicts.”

The memorial requests the board of regents at the University of New Mexico name the Utton Transboundary Resources Center’s Ombudsman Program as the Joe M. Stell Water Ombudsman Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

An appropriation is not included in this House Memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Utton Transboundary Resources Center was established at the University of New Mexico School of Law to carry on the work of the late Professor Albert E. Utton related to transboundary resource issues. Professor Utton, a visionary and man of diplomacy, was co-founder of The International Transboundary Resources Center (CIRT) and the Natural Resources Center (NRC) at the University of New Mexico School of Law. In January of 1999, a group of Professor Utton’s colleagues met and determined to continue his work.

The Utton Center, in carrying out its mission to promote equitable and sustainable management and utilization of transboundary resources through impartial expertise, multi-disciplinary scholarship, and preventive diplomacy brings together multidisciplinary teams for academic research and field work projects. Solutions for complex transboundary resource issues are reached using preventive diplomacy and fact-based analysis. The Utton Center examines and analyzes the problems, develops teams to collaborate on solutions, and helps avoid costly litigation while fostering sustainable resource management plans.

By providing information to the public about water rights, and assisting water rights claimants and the courts in adjudication of water rights, ombudsman services could reduce the amount of litigation required for settlement of water rights claims.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There would be minimal administrative costs associated with signage, office supplies and other materials associated with the naming requested in this memorial.

AW/nt